

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01571 100752Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 /024 W
-----101151Z 100654 /15
R 100631Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO FAS USDA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2109

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1571

FOR SPENCER, EPD, CEP, OGSM FROM AGATT

TOFAS 14

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: CCC CREDIT JORDAN AND SYRIA

REF: (A) FASTO 17 (B) FASTO 7 (C) TOAID 17 DATED 2/16/77

1. AGATT CONTACTING EMBASSY AMMAN TO DETERMINE JORDANS INTERST
IN CCC CREDIT AND WILL REPLY THIS MATTER ASAP SEPTTEL.

2. EMBASSY DAMASCUS HAS CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH MINECON
OFFICIALS ON CCC CREDITS, BUT IS STILL WAITING FOR FORMAL
REQUEST FROM SYRIANS.

3. AGATT APPRAISAL OF SITUATION IS (A) AS TITLE I AGREEMENT
COVERS 35,000 MT OF RICE, UNCOMMITTED 1977 IMPORT REQUIREMENTS
STAND AT NO MORE THAN 15,000 MT. (B) SARG EXPECTED TO RECEIVE
SOME TITLE I VEGOIL AND HAS NOT GIVEN UP HOPE THAN AMENDMENT TO
TITLE I AGREEMENT POSSIBLE. SYRIA PURCHASED 2,400 MT SOYOIL FOR
MARCH/APRIL 1977 DELIVERY FROM HOLLAND, THUS MAXIMUM UNCOMMITTED
PURCHASES FOR 1977 THEY ESTIMATE AT 7,600 MT. (C) SARG MUST BUY
AT LEAST 10,000 MT YELLOW CORN FOR 1977 DELIVERY, AND COULD BE
EXPECTED TO REQUEST CCC FINANCING FOR ENTIRE AMOUNT. (D) ORIGINAL
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DISCUSSIONS WITH SARG WERE CONCERNING 260,000 MT WHEAT FLOUR.
AGATT ESTIMATES 1977 IMPORT REQUIREMENTS SOMEWHAT LOWER AT
150,000 TO 200,000 MT, WITH SUPPLIES FOR JAN/APRIL ALREADY
CONTRACTED INDICATING SOME 100,000 TO 150,000 MT STILL TO BE
PURCHASED. IF SARG CAN GET 2 TO 3 YEAR REPAYMENT TERMS UNDER
CCC, GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT SOME US FLOUR MIGHT BE TAKEN.
MUCH DEPENDS UPON LANDED COSTS OF US AND OTHER FLOURS AT TIME

OF PURCHASE. (E) SARG WILL WANT 10,000 MT OF SOYBEAN MEAL
IF ELIGIBLE.

4. PER PARA 6 REF (B) NO 1976 WHEAT IMPORTS OTHER THAN
SMALL QUANTITIES UNDER WFP ESTIMATED AT 7,407 MT JAN/JULY. SYRIA
EXPORTING BARLEY -31,862 MT JAN/JULY 1976, ANOTHER 30,000 MT
TO JORDAN IN EARLY 1977. CORN NEEDED FOR POULTRY FEEDS.
CORN IMPORTS EXCL SEED BY ORIGIN IN 1975, USA 11,958 MT,
LEBANON 732 MT, JORDAN 171 MT. 1976 CORN IMPORTS ESTIMATED AT
11,000 MT FROM USA, YUGOSLAVIA 10,000 MT AND THAILAND 10,000 MT.
AGATT FORECAST 1977 REQUIREMENTS AT 35,000 MT. PER PARA 7 REF (B)
SYRIA BUYING FULLY REFINED SOYOIL IN DRUMS AND 15/18 KILO CANS.

5. AGATT SUGGESTS ANOTHER LOOK BE TAKEN AT SYRIAS CREDIT
WORTHINESS IN LIGHT RENEWED PLEDGES AND PAYMENTS FROM ARAB
SOURCES. REF (C) PROVIDES ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON 1976
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR 1977.
MURPHY

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